

Message Text

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USLO SACLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA PRIORITY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4 SUB PARA A, LINE 8, AND
PARA 5 LINE 9 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT:FORCE PROPOSALS FOR US, 1979-1984

REFS: A. USNATO 1012, DTG 3116379 JAN 78; B. USNATO 1101,
DTG 021816Z FEB 78; C. USNATO 1761, DTG 211643Z FEB 78

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1. SUMMARY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A REASONABLE CHALLENGE FOR
THE U.S. IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE, GIVEN THE
ADMINISTRATION'S CLEAR COMMITMENT FROM THE OUTSET TO NATO
DEFENSE AND ITS FIRM RE-AFFIRMATION AT THE MAY SUMMIT.
THEREFORE, WE AGREE WITH MANY OF THE FORCE PROPOSALS OF
ACE AND ACLANT. AT THE SAME TIME, ISSUES BEING RAISED IN

NAVAL SHIPBUILDING AND OTHER STUDIES COMPEL US TO RESERVE ON SEVERAL PROPOSALS, PENDING THEIR RESOLUTION. OTHER PROPOSALS FALL WELL OUTSIDE THE CHALLENGE AREA AND SHOULD NOT BE SUPPORTED. END SUMMARY.

2. PER REFTTEL WE HAVE REVIEWED CAREFULLY THE FORCE GOALS PROPOSED BY ALLIED COMMAND EUROPE (ACE) AND ACLANT FOR 1979-1984. OUR REVIEW HAS FOCUSED ON PROPOSALS NOT YET TAKEN UP ON COUNTRY PLANS; IT REFLECTS OUR CONVICTION THAT AT LEAST SOME LEEWAY SHOULD BE PRESERVED FOR THOSE LTDP PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD NOT ALREADY BE INCLUDED IN FORCE GOALS.

3. ACE FORCE PROPOSALS. GENERALLY, WE CONSIDER THE ACE FORCE PROPOSALS WITHIN THE AREA OF QUOTE REASONABLE CHALLENGE. UNQUOTE. HOWEVER, CONCERNING EM04 (MPA) AND EM08 (NUCLEAR PROPELLED SUBMARINES), OUR POSITION MUST REMAIN AS STATED IN RESPONSE TO THE 1977-1982 FORCE GOALS ON THE SAME SUBJECT. WE CANNOT MEET THESE PROPOSALS BECAUSE OF COMPETING DEMANDS FOR MPA AND SSNS IN THE ATLANTIC, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIGN 13 CAT A-1 AND 5 CAT A-3 MPA AND 2 CAT A-1 AND 2 CAT A-2 SSN TO SACEUR. FORCE PROPOSALS EM01-3 AND EM07 (ATTACK/ASW CARRIERS, CG/DDGS, SURFACE COMBATANTS, AND SSBN'S) CANNOT BE ANSWERED WITH ASSURANCE UNTIL STUDIES NOW UNDERWAY ARE COMPLETED AND THE ISSUES RAISED
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AND RESOLVED -- HOPEFULLY IN TIME FOR SUBMISSION IN REPLY TO DPQ-78. CONCERNING EM04 (PART II), MAINTENANCE OF 27 MPA AT SIGONELLA WILL BE TAKEN UNDER REVIEW. WE ALSO HAVE SPECIFIC CONCERNS WITH THE FOLLOWING ACE PROPOSALS:

A. EA-28 (TACTICAL AIR EW), EL02 (HELICOPTERS), EL-32 (IFF FOR ARMY A/C) AND EL27 (SHORAD) ALREADY ARE IN US PROGRAM, AND SHOULD BE SO REFLECTED.

B. EL-16 ASKS US TO REPLACE 175MM HOWITZER WITH THE XM-198. WE PLAN TO USE THE M-110 8" HOWITZER INSTEAD.

C. ON EL-34 NO FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON PROPOSED FIGHTING VEHICLE SYSTEM. THE US HOPES TO REPORT PLANS ON THIS MATTER AS PART OF ITS RESPONSE TO DPQ-78.

D. EL-31A (NIKE). REQUIREMENT SECTION SHOULD BE PREFACED BY THE FOLLOWING: QUOTE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SACEUR'S ONGOING STUDY ON THIS SUBJECT . . . UNQUOTE.

E. ON EL-31B (INCREASED STOCKS OF HAWK MISSILES), US IS

INCREASING HAWK THEATER STOCKS FROM 9 TO 12 PER RAIL.
IT IS NOT ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO GO BEYOND THIS 33
PERCENT INCREASE WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO THE PATRIOT PROGRAM.

4. ACLANT FORCE PROPOSALS. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS/RESERVATIONS:

A. POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF ONGOING NAVAL SHIPBUILDING
AND OTHER STUDIES COMPEL US TO RESERVE OUR POSITION ON
PROPOSALS AM01, AM02, AM04-5, AM07, AND AM-15 (FORCES
ASSIGNMENT; AIRCRAFT CARRIERS; ASSIGNMENT OF CRUISERS,
DESTROYERS/FRIGATES AND MPA; AND GUIDED MISSILE FRIGATES).
WE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO COMMENT DEFINITELY ON
THE NAVAL FORCE PROPOSALS IN THESE AREAS UNTIL ON-GOING
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STUDIES ARE COMPLETED AND DECISIONS ARE TAKEN ON
FUTURE PROGRAMS.

B. THE FUNCTIONS OF THOSE FORCES ADDRESSED IN AM 14 AND
16 ARE NOW EXPECTED TO BE PERFORMED TO SOME DEGREE BY
OTHER VESSELS (LIKE AEGIS CARRYING DDGS) OR BY SHIPS
(E.G., DDGS) WHOSE LIFE IS BEING EXTENDED, BUT PROJECTED
NUMBERS OF THESE SHIPS ARE UNCERTAIN AT THIS POINT.

C. EVEN WITH THE INCREASED DEFENSE SPENDING NOW PRO-
JECTED IN RESPONSE TO LAST SPRING'S MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE,
AM03 AND AM06 (ASW SUPPORT SHIPS AND SSN'S) SEEM TO
CALL FOR EXPENDITURES WELL BEYOND THE REASONABLE
CHALLENGE.

D. CURRENT PLANNED ARMY FORCE STRUCTURE DOES NOT ALLOW
FOR TOTAL FULFILLMENT OF AL-11. US ARMY WILL CONTINUE
TO ASSIGN RESERVE COMPONENT BRIGADE AGAINST THIS
REQUIREMENT. FURTHER, IN ACCEPTING AA-10, IT SHOULD
BE MADE CLEAR THAT US WOULD NOT INTEND TO BASE SUCH
SQUADRONS IN ICELAND DURING PEACETIME.

E. IN RESPONDING TO PROPOSALS AM03 AND AM06, YOU
SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT, ACCORDING TO THE ACLANT PROPOSALS
(C-72/3069/A OF 27 OCTOBER 1977), THE ACLANT GOALS ARE
PREDICATED ON THE AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
QUOTE ... BASED ON AN INCREASE IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURE
OF 6 PERCENT PER YEAR IN REAL TERMS. UNQUOTE. ACLANT'S
FORCE PROPOSALS SPELL OUT QUOTE TO WHICH PROPOSALS THESE
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SHOULD BE DIRECTED. UNQUOTE. THE

LONG-RANGE TENTATIVE ESTIMATES SUBMITTED IN CONNECTION
WITH THE PRESIDENT'S FY 1979 BUDGET PROJECT A REAL
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GROWTH OF 3 PERCENT PER YEAR IN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES THROUGH FY 1983 AS CALLED FOR IN MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE AGREED BY DEFENSE MINISTERS AT MAY 1977 DPC. ACLANT'S FORCE PROPOSALS ARE BASED ON A HYPOTHETICAL 6 PERCENT INCREMENT OF INCREASED DEFENSE EXPENDITURE, WHICH IS CLEARLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE PRESIDENT'S FY 1979 DEFENSE BUDGET.

5. TO SUM UP, MISSION SHOULD (1) REITERATE OUR CONTINUED INABILITY TO ENDORSE EM07 (MPA) AND EM08 (NUCLEAR PROPELLED SUBMARINES) FOR REASONS CITED PARA 3 (ABOVE); (2) RESPOND IN DETAIL TO OTHER ACE PROPOSALS AS INDICATED IN PARA 3 (ABOVE); (3) RESERVE COMMENT ON EM01-EM04 AND AM01, AM02, AM04, AM05, AM07, AND AM15 PENDING COMPLETION OF NAVAL SHIPBUILDING AND OTHER STUDIES AND DECISIONS THEREON; (4) EXPLAIN THAT TASKS PERFORMED BY FORCES ADDRESSED IN AM 14 AND 16 ARE EXPECTED TO BE COVERED TO SOME DEGREE BY EXTENDING LIFE OF DDG'S AND SUBSTITUTING AEGIS-ARMED NEW CONSTRUCTION DDG'S; AND (5) STATE THAT, HOWEVER LAUDABLE, FORCE PROPOSALS AM03 AND AM06 (ASW SUPPORT SHIPS AND SSN'S) APPEAR TO FALL OUTSIDE REASONABLE CHALLENGE AREA AND SHOULD NOT BE SUPPORTED. YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT, WHILE SOME OF REMAINING FORCE PROPOSALS ARE RATHER AMBITIOUS, WE CAN ACCEPT THEM AS A CHALLENGE.

6. YOU MAY RELEASE PROJECTIONS OF US DEFENSE EXPENDITURES CONTAINED PARA 3 REF C AS REASONABLE ESTIMATES OF PLANNED US DEFENSE SPENDING UNDER NATO DEFINITION.

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